Claims

1. A probe useful in inserting a lacrimal stent comprising a proximal end and a distal end, said distal end being tapered to facilitate entry into a puncta of a patient, wherein said probe comprises a channel extending from said distal end to a sideport on said probe positioned between said proximal end and said distal end.

2. The probe of claim 1, wherein said distal end is rigid.

3. A probe useful in inserting a lacrimal stent comprising a proximal end and a distal end, said distal end being flexible and comprising a blunt tip, wherein said probe comprises a channel extending from said distal end to a sideport on said probe positioned between said proximal end and said distal end.

4. The probe of claim 3, wherein said proximal end has affixed thereto a lacrimal stent tube.

5. A kit comprising at least one first probe comprising a proximal end and a distal end, said distal end channel being tapered to facilitate entry into a puncta of a patient, wherein said at least one first probe comprises a channel extending from said distal end to a sideport on said probe positioned between said proximal end and said distal end; and at least one second probe comprising a proximal end and a distal end, said distal end being flexible and comprising a blunt tip, wherein said probe comprises a channel extending from said distal end to a sideport on said probe positioned between said proximal end and said distal end; whereby said first and second probes are useful in assisting with insertion of lacrimal stents in a patient in need thereof

6. The kit of claim 5 wherein said at least one first probe comprises a rigid, tapered probe.

7. A method for inserting a lacrimal stent comprising inserting a tapered probe into a puncta of a patient to dilate said punta to a desired opening size, said tapered probe comprising a rigid distal end, a proximal end, and a channel extending from said distal end to a sideport between said distal end and said proximal end of said tapered probe; passaging a guidewire comprising a distal end and a proximal end through said tapered probe such that said distal end of said guidewire is passaged through said sideport, out said distal end of said tapered probe, into said puncta,and positioned in the patient's lacrimal apparatus at a desired depth; and removing said tapered probe,.

8. The method of claim 7 further comprising passaging said guidewire through a second probe comprising a distal end, a proximal end, and a channel extending from said distal end to a sideport between said distal end and said proximal end of said second probe such that said guidewire is passaged through said distal end, through said channel and out said sideport; and inserting said second probe into said puncta, wherein said second probe is guided into said patient's lacrimal apparatus at a desired depth; and removing said guidewire from said patient.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein said distal end of said second probe is flexible and comprises a blunt tip.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein said second probe comprises a silastic tubing affixed to its proximal end.

Il. The method of claim 10, wherein said silastic tubing comprises a first end and a second end; and wherein said first end is affixed to said second probe and said second end is affixed to a third probe comprising a distal end, a proximal end, and a channel extending from said distal end to a sidcport between said distal end of said third probe.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein said patient comprises an upper puncta and a lower puncta and wherein said second probe is inserted into said lacrimal apparatus through said lower puncta and said third probe is inserted into said lacrimal apparatus through said upper puncta.